

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Air-Rite Service Supply

#### Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership

#### Air Rite Cuts Lead Time With Enhanced Process

**Client Profile:**

Air Rite, founded in 1952, has a Filter Division located in Lakewood, Ohio that manufactures and distributes HVAC air filters of all sizes. Products include specialized, made-to-order filters primarily for industrial and commercial clients. The company has 22 employees.

**Situation:**

Air Rite had been using a manual process to convert frame stock for the outside framing of its custom-sized air filters. The tedious and labor-intensive process required a great deal of set-up time for each new order. Few employees knew how to properly set-up dies for size changes, further adding to production delays. Air Rite wanted to address these problems and reduce lead time to better meet the needs of its customers. The company contacted CAMP, a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

**Solution:**

CAMP engineers automated the process by building a customized, flexible machine that automatically die punches the framing stock based on measurements entered by the user. The new equipment includes a computerized input system, which allows specifications for several jobs to be entered at once. The machine then automatically cuts the cardboard stock based on these measurements. As an enhancement, the new process produces an interlocking tab on the cardboard (similar to those found on cereal boxes), eliminating a step in the previous method and increasing efficiency. This user-friendly machine requires little attention while running, freeing employees to conduct more value-added activities in the factory.

**Results:**

Reduced lead times by approximately 50 percent.  
Enhanced worker satisfaction.  
Producing a more consistent and accurate product.

**Testimonial:**

"CAMP built a wonderful machine for us that does an excellent job. It has cut our lead times to about half and yields a better product than our previous process. Our employees enjoy operating the new machine and certainly don't

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miss the old days!"

Dave Harris, President